WE CLAIM:

1.   A method of real-time communication between a remote station and an application server over a computer network, comprising the steps of:

a.   in response to a request from the remote station, creating a persistent connection between the remote station and a web server;

b.   in response to a selection from the remote station, creating at least one application instance object which maintains an application state specific to a functionality of an application on the application server;

c.   creating a listener to receive any event within a specified set of events; and

d.   in response to the occurrence of an event within the set of events, publishing the event to each listener associated with the application, for communication to the remote station.

2.   The method of claim 1 including the step of: e. notifying the remote station that the event has occurred.

3.   The method of claim 1 in which the event occurs at a remote station and the step of publishing an event includes the substeps of :

a.   communicating the event from the remote station at which the event occurs to the web server; and

b.   communicating event data representing the event to the application server.

4.   A system for real-time communication between a remote station and an application server over a computer network, comprising:

a computer with a browser having a user interface, for communicating with a remote server and for creating a local listener to receive an event,

an application server remote from the computer, supporting at least one application program, and

a web server for creating

a session object which maintains a persistent connection with the computer,

at least one application instance object which maintains an application state specific to a functionality of an application on the application server, and

a remote listener for receiving an event within a specified set of events occurring in the application program;

wherein in response to the occurrence of an event within the set of events, the event is published in real-time to the local listener associated with the application in which the event occurred, and the browser is thereby provided with data to update the user interface.

5.   The system of claim 4 in which the browser accepts the data to update the user interface without refreshing the user interface.

6.   The system of claim 5 wherein the listener notifies the remote station that an event has occurred.

7.   The system of claim 4 in which the computer comprises software for publishing an event which occurs at the computer and communicating the event from the computer to the web server, and the web server comprises software for communicating data representing the event to the application server.

8.   A computer program product for use with a computer, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for real-time communication between a remote station and an application server over a computer network, said computer program product having

a. computer readable program code means for, in response to a request from a remote station, creating a persistent connection between the remote station and a web server;

b. computer readable program code means for, in response to a selection by the remote station, creating at least one application instance object which maintains an application state specific to a functionality of an application on the application server;

c. computer readable program code means for creating a listener to receive any event within a specified set of events; and

d. computer readable program code means for, in response to the occurrence of an event within the set of events, publishing the event to each listener associated with the application, for communication to the remote station.

9. The computer program product of claim 8 including computer readable program code means for notifying the remote station that the event has occurred.

10. The computer program product of claim 8 including computer readable program code means for communicating an event from a remote station to the web server and communicating event data representing the event to the application server.